ABSTRACT

A method and system for facilitating file access in a peer-to-peer network. The peer-to-peer network includes a plurality of nodes, where a portion of the nodes are separated from the network by a firewall device. The method and system include designating a first node on the network that is not firewall protected to act as a proxy server. In response to determining that a second node is protected by a firewall, the second node is instructed to establish a connection with the proxy server. An open connection request is then sent from the second node to the proxy server. In response to receiving a request from a third node to access a file on the second node, the method and system further include instructing the third node to send the request to the proxy server. The proxy server is then used to forward the request to the second node as a response to the open connection request, thereby allowing other nodes to access files on the second node despite the presence of the firewall.

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